

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant

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... is Setting a Watch

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant

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DEFCON 1

A SPIRITUAL DEFENSE CONDITION

by David Brown

Transcribed from a message preached at Living Hope Christian Fellowship; Terre Hill, PA

I appreciate opening in song. It takes awhile to forget the world, and get past all the distractions of the morning; to put our thoughts on God. If you think about it in terms of the Old Testament Temple, it takes awhile to move from the busy-ness of the Temple court to the Holy Place. From the sunlight to the candle light; and singing is like letting your eyes adjust. There is the shewbread, the lamp stand, the altar of incense. We wait for our high priest, the Holy Spirit.

I cannot think of a better way to spend the first few hours of my 50th birthday, than to be here. But I have not been up here before. Am I prepared for this? No. I'd say that I respect the gift that God has given to those who come up here week after week. Praise God, I am thankful for you.

Yes, there is a certain amount of fear inside of me. The enemy has been attacking and it feels like an ambush. Like that valley mentioned last week, with the enemy up in the heights. But I have been encouraged, and by God's grace I am going to move forward against the enemy and his lies.

As I pondered about what to say in these few minutes, I considered the messages of the

last Lord's Day. I considered where we are as a new fellowship. I considered the flow of things here, and it seemed best to step back a bit and look at ourselves and our situation. As we hear sometimes, this message is for me.

We are all on a road. We are all on a spiritual journey. Here is where we are, from God's point of view. He knows exactly where we are. Here is where we should be, which may be different for each of us. But the problem can be that this is where we think we are.

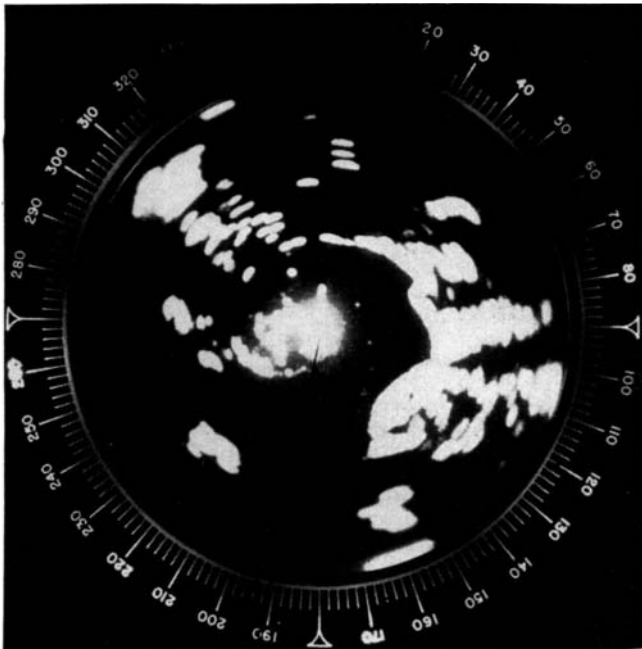
When we think we are closer to the goal God has for us now, we don't press forward. We become complacent—until God speaks to us, sometimes through a series of meetings or a message, sometimes just being alone with God. And we see ourselves more like He sees us. And we sense the gulf between where we really are and where we should be.

I ask the question, "Have we been too comfortable", or "Have we been too distracted to see where we are", "Are we alert, are we aware of what is going on"? Please turn to 1 Peter 5:8. There is another reason we are hindered. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking

whom he may devour....” The title of this message is “A Spiritual Defense Condition”.

Most of us are far removed from the military. We ourselves have never been involved in it. We don’t have relatives who are either. It is far from our thinking. Some here have been involved and have come to repudiate, to push off, what the military stands for; power & might in this world.

Yes, we understand the role of civil government in restraining unregenerate man. Yet we recognize, as regenerated members of God’s family that this world is in between two powers; God & Satan. There is a spiritual battle going on.



Since World War II, our military has developed a way of classifying readiness for war. It is called the Defense Readiness Condition, or DEFense CONdition, abbreviated DEFCON. And there are 5 levels:

- 5 Normal peacetime readiness. These are their terms, I’ll call this level “Relaxed”.
- 4 Normal but increased intelligence and security. “Awareness”.
- 3 Increase in force readiness above normal readiness. “Be careful”.
- 2 Further increase in force readiness, but less than maximum readiness. “Watch out”. And

there may be battles at this point also.

- 1 Maximum force readiness. “All out war”

I thought of this example of these levels:

- You are driving into some state park—condition 5, relaxed.
- The welcoming ranger that gives you a pass says to be aware of the bears in the park—condition 4, awareness.
- You set up a tent somewhere in the state park and a ranger stops by and says “be careful, there are bears in the area”—condition 3, be careful.
- You wake up in the night and hear a bear outside your tent—condition 2, watch out.
- The bear is looking at you through the door of the tent—condition 1, all out war.

To give you some real military examples of these levels:

- The United States was at DEFCON 4 throughout most of the Cold War, that open rivalry that developed between the United States and its allies and the Soviet Union and its allies. Be aware of the bears.
- The military was at DEFCON 3 during the Middle East War in 1973, also called the Yom Kippur War, when the Soviet Union threatened to take the side of the Arabs against Israel. DEFCON 3 was also declared following the September 11 attacks, for a time. There are bears in the area.
- The military was at DEFCON 2 for most all of the Cuban Missile Crisis, that tense confrontation between the United States and Soviet Union over their nuclear missiles in Cuba, aimed at us. There is a bear outside the tent.
- In 1969, during the Vietnam War, the United States attempted to bluff the Communists in North Vietnam by briefly declaring DEFCON 1. Nuclear forces were put into readiness. Nuclear-armed bombers circled over North Vietnam. As far as the crew in those planes knew, they were going to drop bombs at any moment. For Vietnam, the bear was looking at them.

Do we know that there is a war? Do we know what our spiritual defense condition should be?

Aug. 7, 1990, Operation Desert Shield began in order to deal with an aggressive Iraq. A few days earlier Iraq had taken Kuwait by force. The US military was sent to be a deterrent to Iraq and to protect Saudi Arabia. But there was not open conflict. Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1991, I went to work. A meeting that included Air Force officers from the Military Airlift Command was taking place that day at our offices. I wasn't part of that meeting, but it was my turn to answer the phone for our group and I took a call from an Air Force General and he asked in a polite, calm manner to speak to another officer he knew was at that meeting. I knew this was an important meeting, but I did one of those things that you realize after the words come out, "oh, why did I say that to a general"? I said "I'm sorry, he's in a meeting. May I take a message?" He repeated his request in a very calm way, but I understood—"go get him". I made sure that the officer took the call. I was use to working with this officer, and as he talked to this general, he turned and looked at me. I thought his expression was different, but I went back to my work. All the military people left the meeting a couple of minutes later—unusual, but not too odd. I went home to my family with no concerns.

The next day, Thursday, Jan. 17, I went through my normal work duties. Later that day President Bush announced that Operation Desert Storm had begun; war had been declared on Iraq. I got a prickly feeling when I thought about that call the day before. Later I learned that the United States Joint

Chiefs of Staff had declared Defense Condition 2, probably shortly before that phone call. And that general was calling all Military Airlift Command personnel back to headquarters for war. But I was not part of the military and was not told. I was a civilian. I did not have any need to know, I was not part of the war. I didn't need to increase my readiness.

Do we understand the spiritual application? Are we looking at this war between Satan and God as an observer? "Oh, I'm just a civilian". "I come here because I enjoy the atmosphere." "I come here because I have some needs." And we all do. But where is our focus, on ourselves? "I'm busy with work." "I just take care of the home and raise children." "I'm not a missionary." "I'm not really part of the war." Oh?

Sometimes a whole county can be caught off guard; their defense condition is not high enough. Pearl Harbor was a shock to our country in World War II.

That World War has some lessons for us. Let's look at the Pacific region for a minute.

Each war has objectives, strategies, and tactics. Down at the lowest level, tactics are the plans to use certain aircraft and kinds of ships in certain situations. At the highest level objectives are the vision. The Allied vision was "we are going to take Japan", the evil empire. For us this would be the gates of Hell, and Satan and his army.

A strategy is the method to obtain the objective. The Allies knew that the military on the mainland of Japan was too difficult to attack from a distance. And Japan was increasing its dominion over the



Do we understand the spiritual application? Are we looking at this war between Satan and God as an observer?

Pacific, taking island after island. The first part of the strategy was to contain Japan from advancing to their next targets of Australia and the Aleutian Islands off of Alaska. The second part of the strategy was to slowly take territory back. This was done by capturing key islands on the way back toward Japan, the objective. Once this was done, the Allies could get within range of the island of Japan and more easily weaken their military, and also weaken the leaders resolve to continue the war. Please understand that this in an earthly example of warfare, we believe in battling through prayer. But Satan has his own objectives, strategies and tactics.

You can turn this whole picture around and look at this island of Japan as an individual being attacked by the enemy. Now we are Japan, and Satan is coming after us. The islands

...View this as a call to awareness, to evaluate our own defense condition... Our Lord Jesus, who is our great example and pattern, was not afraid of Satan, but He was aware of him. May we be the same, and not let Satan be a hindrance to our progress.

being the territory Satan battles over, sometimes taking ground, sometimes losing. Or smaller churches could be viewed as islands in Satan's war on a movement. Are we being alert?

Does our enemy contain us from advancing? Does he keep us too busy? Too complacent? Too fascinated with the world? Is he taking an island or two from us?

It is important to note that the military does not panic when the defense condition goes up. It just carries on with the plan. Neither should we falter and panic if Satan gains some ground. Carry on with the plan. Put our trust in God's wisdom and strength, obey Him and PRAY. Ground taken can be retaken. But we have to be aware; this is a war with real casualties.

In the military when the defense condition goes up, they move forward under the direction of their leaders.

In a war;

- the military strength (which is under control) is directed toward the enemy,
- the soldiers encourage each other, and
- the leaders press for victory.

As one general from World War II said to those in the military, "Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory, that if you lose, the Nation will be destroyed..." I need to see this for my family, and we need to see this for our fellowship.

Do we see ourselves as civilians; not involved in the war? Older men, younger men, how do we view the spiritual war we are in? What defense condition should we be at in our homes and in our fellowship? Are we aware; are we training for the battle?

I'm not sure how to balance this. We don't want to focus on Satan, there is a bigger goal—the proclaiming of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We don't want to have an overpowering fear of him. Philippians 1:27-28a, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries..."

But view this as a call to awareness, to evaluate our own defense condition. What Defense Condition should we declare, individually and as a fellowship? 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour..." This applies to individuals, families, fellowships, movements, any collection of God's people. Our Lord Jesus, who is our great example and pattern, was not afraid of Satan, but He was aware of him. May we be the same, and not let Satan be a hindrance to our progress.

It is my desire to see every one of us moving forward on this spiritual road, unhindered by this enemy. □

It's
Not
Black
and
White,

It's
Black
+
White

by Brandon Byler

Clear black-and-white distinctions are not appreciated in much of the Church like they once were. In fact, much of what we believe and live appears to be one big GRAY, and most folks seem content to keep it that way. No need to dig out any personal convictions, no need to think about how to live carefully according to the Bible. If some believe one thing and some another and it looks as if God is blessing the whole muddle, who are we to step in and suggest that the Word gives us clear guidelines (or even principles!) about what Christians ought and ought not do.

However, is it possible that we have become so compromised with the world that we find it quite soothing to continue mixing black and white into one big pot of gray. It may look like the

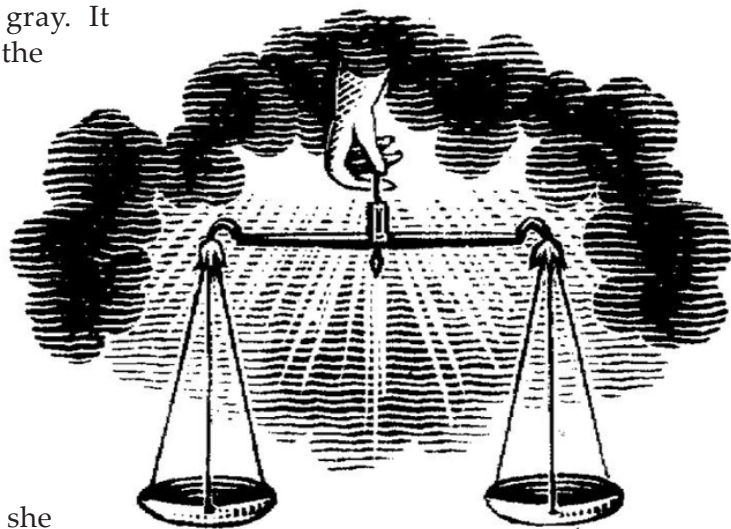
soup of tolerance, but I guarantee you it has proven to be the poison of impotence. The

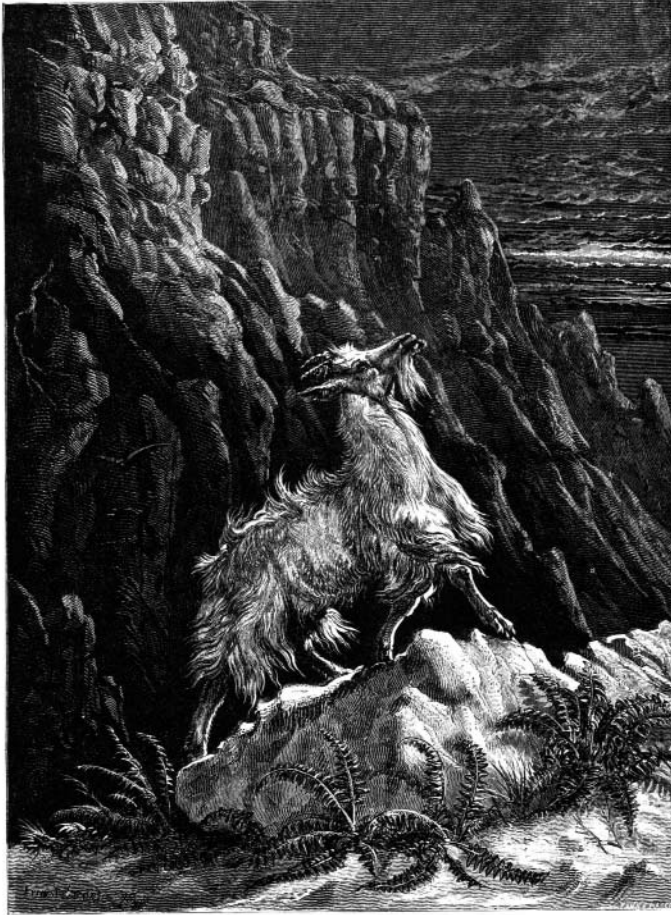
Bride has slurped down the whole pot and finds that she is powerless to effect change within herself, let

alone those around her. She tries to preach absolutes of the Word while proclaiming relativity of practices (standards). The only resulting "absolute" the Church's compromising union has birthed is the notion that the Word is relative and the practices are completely unnecessary—if not suspiciously legalistic. Essentially, the donkey and horse have been put together and the outcome is as sterile as the mule.

Instead of the keenness of discernment we have the confusion of delusion—contented self-delusion. Thus, folks are frolicking in the gray fog each one doing what is right in his own eyes. Each one expecting God to bless and help them no matter what they do or don't do. Is it any wonder that the church continues to shift toward condoning outright sinfulness? After all, white is unrealistic and legalistic, but gray is wonderful. Gray is so uncertain, so tolerant, so open. Most everyone agrees that gray is a quite sensible position to take.

Oh, and **black**? Why, more and more it's looking like just another shade of gray. □





THE SCAPEGOAT.

JESUS

Our Scapegoat

by Mike Atnip

Behold the Lamb of God,
which taketh away the sin of the world
John 1:29

Are you like me? I mean, does the book of Leviticus at times seem a bit of an unnecessary appendix to the revelation of God to man?

If so, join me for a few minutes in an exciting journey into the realms of types, figures and shadows. Once the shadow is seen for what (or who!) it really is, Leviticus will be

changed into a gold mine for you! In addition, your life may just change forever as well!

Shadows are slippery objects. It is hard to get a grip on one, and unless the body that makes the shadow is understood, all kinds of weird imaginations can arise. Having the New Testament before us is of immeasurable help, since Jesus and the apostles have given us a jump-start in unwinding the mysteries of the Levitical law.

But imagine it! Think how it must have been for an Old Testament Jew, sitting in a synagogue, listening to the droning voice of a Rabbi go through the seemingly endless and unnecessary details of the various sacrifices. I am sure that the vast majority of the Old Testament saints missed the point entirely, and focused upon the physical and temporary applications. I myself would likely have done just the same. Probably only the few who were walking close to God had their spiritual eyes and ears open, awaiting the fulfillment of these majestic prophecies.

Shall we look into the heavenly realms and see what God “spoke before” unto his people? You will likely go away with a deeper love for Jesus, our scapegoat!

Defining the Scapegoat

For the sake of space, I will not include the text of the scriptures of this article, but it

is extremely important to read the sixteenth chapter of Leviticus, or be thoroughly acquainted with it. This chapter is a “foreshadow of things to come”, and lays some foundational theology for the New Covenant salvation. Unfortunately, theologians down through the centuries have added a lot of baggage to the theme of salvation, and in doing so, have diverted the attention from the essence of New Covenant redemption. For this reason, we are going to study some root definitions of some commonly used words. We will begin with:

“Sin Offering”

The Hebrew root has the idea of plain old sin. The “offering” part really is not in the original language, but is an added word to complete the surmised intention. (This is probably very correct.) The root word is based on the idea of “to miss”, in the sense of to err from the intended goal. This could be illustrated in the flight of an arrow, which is intended for a bullseye, but “misses” the target completely. We would not normally say so, but this could be called a “sin” instead of a miss. In our modern English, we might say a “mess-up”. The point to keep in mind is that this word usually has reference to an act or action, not to a condition. Hence, “sin-offering” would have to do with deeds that have been committed that

have “missed” the goal of obedience to God.

“Atonement”

With this word we need to unload a bit of theological baggage perhaps. This word does NOT mean forgiveness, although the idea of forgiveness is often included in atonement. The root word means “to cover over”, and is used to describe how Noah covered the ark with pitch. By an extension, it has the idea of appeasement. Perhaps this could be illustrated by an angry person confronting his enemy with a list of injustices that he feels he has received. The offending party then makes good for each count of the charges, and they are marked out one by one. When the two part ways, the charges have been “covered over”, and the offended party feels appeased.

The fact that this word is not the same as “forgiveness” is clearly illustrated in verses like Leviticus 4:20b, “and the



priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them. Here we see the priest making the atonement, but someone else (God) doing the

forgiving. The priest is doing something to appease the offended, and God accepts it and forgives. Sometimes the word “reconcile” is used to translate this word. To reconcile means to bring two offended parties to peace. Both reconcile and appease often refer to the actions done by a third party in a dispute.

Other Old Testament verses seem to have the idea of “purging” when they use this word. This does not contradict the idea of appeasement or reconciliation, but focuses more on what needs to happen for these to take place in a person: the offense needs purged, or taken away.

“Scapegoat”

The Hebrew word for “scapegoat” has always been a challenge to translators. In fact, there is not a clear agreement as to exactly where the Hebrew word is rooted. In such cases, the context is of utmost importance.

To define this word, once again we must unload several centuries of sophisticated theology, and look at the simple meaning of the word. The literal translation would be something along the line of “the going-away goat” or the “disappearing goat” or the “entire-removal goat”. As you can see, our English language has no good word for these ideas. The word that the KJV translators used, “scapegoat”, derived from the idea of a goat

that is habitually getting out of his fence or pen, and heading away from home. Since he is always “escaping”, such a goat was called a “scapegoat”.

In the original days of the KJV translation, this would be as close a translation as “going-away goat” or “disappearing goat”. However, in the centuries that have followed, the word scapegoat has come to mean “a person who takes the blame for somebody else”. This is a misleading idea for the Hebrew thought! I will explain further on as to why.

The Story of the Scapegoat

Let us look at Leviticus chapter sixteen again. First of all, in verse one, we see a mention made of the death of the two sons of Aaron. This is a somber forewarning to all who think to appease the wrath of God against sinners by any other means than that which the following verses spell out. Shall we learn from them?

Next, we see mention made of Aaron, who is to do the atoning work. The New Testament clearly indicates that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this “high priest”. So from here on in the chapter, we can insert the name Jesus

in place of Aaron. In verse eight, we find the first mention of the “scapegoat”. Two goats were to be taken to the door of the tabernacle, and by



lot one was to be chosen to be the goat for the LORD, and the other was to be the “disappearing goat”. The first goat had to die. His life was to be an offering for the “mess-ups” or “missed marks” of the people. Since without the shedding of blood there can be no remission for sins, God demanded the blood of a goat. According to verse 16, his blood was to appease for the “transgressions” (literally this word refers to “rebellions”) against God

This first goat is clearly a shadow of Jesus dying on the cross, and giving his pure, sinless life as a ransom to pay for our “missed marks”. In the modern day sense of the word, this goat was the “scapegoat”. He took the penalty that others deserved, and paid the debt that others owed. But, as mentioned already, the meaning of “scapegoat” is NOT

“taking the blame”. Let us look now at the “azazel”, the goat of “entire removal”.

This second goat had to be “presented alive before the LORD”. The reason for this is that he had a job to do that required life. The job of the first goat required a death, but now there was more to be done. The wrath of God against the “mess-ups” (by using this term, I do not want to negate the terribleness

of sin. I use this term to focus on the fact of “ungodly deeds already committed) was now appeased. But what about the very cause of these actions? Here is where another goat was called for.

In verse 10, we see the phrase “to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness”. The next mention of this goat is in verse 20. Again, we see the need for a live goat. In verse 21, Aaron was to lay his hands upon the goat, and confess all the “iniquities” of the people. This word does not refer to deeds already committed, but rather to the “crookedness” or “perverseness” from which the “mess-ups” sprang. Now, we are dealing with conditions, not actions.

Continuing on in the same verse, we see that “all their transgressions in all their sins” was to be placed upon this live goat. The root idea of the word

“transgressions” is that of “rebellion”, or a “breaking away from authority”. This, of course, is the root cause of “sins”, which are deeds carried out.

Next, we see these “crookednesses” and “revolts from authority” “put” on the head of the live goat. He is then “sent away” to a “land not inhabited”. The words “not inhabited” refer to a separated place, where the goat will likely never come back from. So ends the story of the “scapegoat”.

The Taking Away of Sin

One day while John the Baptist was in the midst of his ministry, he saw Jesus of Nazareth approaching him. He seems to have been overtaken with a spirit of prophecy, and suddenly exclaimed, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) Have you ever wondered why he did not say, “which forgives the sins of the world”? There is a reason why he said, “taketh away”! He was referring to Jesus, as our scapegoat that carried away all our “sin” (note, NOT plural, sins! Also note that “taketh away” is NOT the same Greek word used for forgiveness.)

Can you see him? Can you picture Jesus, resurrecting from the dead after becoming the sin-offering goat that gave his life as an appeasement for sins committed? He still had a work to do! The committed

sins were now atoned for. But what of the very nature of sin, its very roots? And so, to “take away sin”, he presented himself alive before his Father, to finish the salvation of helpless mankind.

Perhaps some may ask, “But why did God use two goats in the shadow, when Jesus was only one person, and he fulfilled both? The answer seems to be that God wanted to foreshadow both the death AND the resurrection of Jesus. Besides, goats do not normally resurrect! Once the first goat died, he could not perform the work of the “scapegoat”.

But Jesus did resurrect. He died to pay the debt that we owed, and rose again to “take away” the “crookedness” and “rebellion” of our human nature. What good would a mere forgiveness of past sins do, if we, as a result of our perverse nature, continued to sin every day? Likewise, what would we do if we could stop sinning, but still had an unpayable debt upon us? God, in his mercy to us, has provided a full salvation: pardon and purging!

John tells us in his first epistle, chapter 3 and verse 5: “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins”. In this verse, the plural “sins” is used. However, the term “take away” is used instead of “pardon”. The words “take away” reminds us again of the “scapegoat”, whose name could well be “take-away goat”. All the iniquity of the people was placed upon him, and he carried it away, so it

would no more bother them. This was the reason Jesus was “manifested”, or brought into the world!

Of course, the shadows could not do what the reality was able. For this, we read in Hebrews 10:4 that “it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins”. Continuing on, we read how that “a body” was prophesied to come. The word “body”, in this verse and in verse 10 of the same chapter, refers to “that which causes a shadow”. Jesus caused the shadow of the goats in Leviticus 16, and thus we read in verse 10 of Hebrews 10, that “we are sanctified through the offering of the body (that which caused the shadow) of Christ”. In other words, Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the prophecies of the two goats mentioned in Leviticus 16, and by means of him, our life can be sanctified, or, made without sin! When the spotlight of the Gospel shines upon Jesus in reference to his death on the cross, he makes a shadow of the sin-offering goat in Leviticus 16, who dies to pay the penalty of committed sins. When the light moves a bit, and we look at Jesus in view of his resurrection, he makes the shadow of the “scapegoat”, the one who “takes away” sin.

In the realm of modern Christianity, we need to be aware of two modes of thinking that miss the intention of the lesson of the scapegoat. The first erroneous doctrine says that the sin-offering goat and the scapegoat accomplished the same thing- that is,

they foreshadowed the forgiveness of sins. If this were the case, New Covenant salvation would differ little from Old Covenant salvation. This way of thinking definitely gets a boost from the modern, evolutionized definition of "scapegoat", which has changed from what the original intention was. A true, biblical "scapegoat" is not someone who takes the blame, but rather someone who "carries sin away" to a "separated place".

The other common erroneous mode of thinking concerning the scapegoat is this: the two goats represent two distinct operations of salvation, which occur at different times, often separated by years, in the life of a believer. Looking at Leviticus 16 again, we find that the word "atonement", which means "reconciliation", is connected with both the sin-offering goat and the scapegoat. (See verses 10 and 16) Without both aspects, mankind has not received New Covenant atonement. To be forgiven, yet not converted (changed) at heart is like a pig that has been washed from wallowing in the mire: you have a clean pig, who is still a pig, and will return to the mud-hole at first opportunity. To be changed at heart, yet not forgiven, is like a pig that has been born again, and no more desires the mud-hole, yet is still covered with stinky mud. To be reconciled to God, there must needs be an inner cleansing and an outer. Such New Testament verses like "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (He. 12:14)

and "God hath... chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit..." (2 Th. 2:13) reveal the necessity of a holy heart to be able to be reconciled (atoned) to God.

The good news is that "whosoever will" may be partaker of this "so great a salvation". Jesus has become our sin-offering goat and our scapegoat. He "was delivered for our offenses (made our sin-offering goat) and was raised again for our justification. (made our scapegoat)" (Ro. 4:25)

I can hear it already... "Wait a minute! Now you are saying that the scapegoat is a type of justification, not sanctification!"

Actually, in a sense, I am saying both! I intend to explore the different aspects of the word "justification" in another chapter. However, for now, let it suffice to say that the word justification is sometimes used in the sense of "being made just right". You have probably heard that the meaning of "justification" is "just as if I had never sinned". This is correct...sometimes. But, sometimes it is used in the sense of something being made "just like it is supposed to be", or, "made just like the original". Only the context of each use can help us to discern which sense was intended. In the case of Romans 4:25, where Paul speaks of the atoning virtues of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it seems to me that he is referring to the meaning of "conform exactly", or, as the Latin root word [*justus*, "just, proper, exact or upright", and

facio, "to make or do"] indicates "make upright"; make just right!

John explains the atoning work of Jesus in similar terms. In his first general epistle, chapter 1 and verse 9, we read: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Again, we see Jesus as our sin-offering goat, appeasing God, as touching our committed sins, by the offering of his spotless life. However, he does not stop there. John continues on to say that Jesus also became our scapegoat, who would purify us from all "unrighteousness". A quick look at the Greek word used for "unrighteousness" will reveal that it is a negative form of "justice". One could coin the words "ajusticeness" or "injusticeness". These are not really words in English, but they help us to see that Jesus came to this world to "justify" our "injusticeness"; to "take away" the sinfulness of our crooked and perverse hearts, making them just or upright once again! This is the fullest meaning of the word "justification"; "to make just".

Have you fled for refuge to Jesus? Has he become your personal sin-offering goat? Has he become your scapegoat? If not, he invites you to surrender your life to his authority. He can then forgive AND take away your sins.

What a savior!! Don't you love him more now? ☐

A Self-Examination Test

These are the 22 questions the members of John Wesley's Holy Club asked themselves each day in their private devotions over 200 years ago:

Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?

Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?

Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?

Can I be trusted?

Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?

Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?

Did the Bible live in me today?

Do I give it time to speak to me every day?

Am I enjoying prayer?

When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?

Do I pray about the money I spend?

Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?

Do I disobey God in anything?

Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?

Am I defeated in any part of my life?

Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?

How do I spend my spare time?

Am I proud?

Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the publican?

Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?

Do I grumble or complain constantly?

Is Christ real to me?

Our Courtship Testimony

by Paul David (PD) & Eileen Weaver

PD

I was about sixteen years of age when I heard a set of teaching tapes on godly courtship, and through that God kindled a deep desire in my heart to go for the best He had for me in the area of choosing a marriage partner. Watching my oldest sister live out many of these principles in her courtship also helped raise the standard in my heart. I knew I was too young then to enter into a life-long relationship with a girl, so I totally committed it to the Lord, and began to pray that He would work it all out in His way, and in His time. I was not praying about anyone in particular, but I desperately wanted to keep my heart for the one woman that would someday be my wife. I had struggled and failed in allowing my heart and mind to be infatuated with thoughts about girls in my younger years, but I repented and

now wanted to keep free from any premature emotional attachments.

One evening in my prayer time I was again committing my future to God, when a wild thought exploded in my mind. Eileen will be your wife! Thinking this was just another romantic temptation, I quickly dismissed it, and finished my prayers. I couldn't shake the thought, so I somewhat vaguely told the Lord about it and asked Him to take care of it. At the time, I was too young to do anything but pray, and that is exactly what I did. For two years I prayed about it, while the feeling I had tried to shake became stronger and stronger. Since I never told anyone but the Lord about it, He was the only one I could turn to whenever I faced uncertainties and fears about the future. It



was a sweet time of learning to walk with God, as He gently led me down the path for my life. Eileen was living away from her home at the time, which I believe God had arranged to help

me keep my heart, since we saw each other only occasionally. I also knew that she was learning many practical lessons of life in preparation for marriage and motherhood. As time went on, I became more and more convinced God was indeed speaking to me about pursuing courtship and marriage. I had developed a good spiritual relationship with Eileen's father in a small prayer group at church, and then I also worked with him for several months. This gave us the chance to often share our visions and goals for the future, but at this point I had never told him of my interest in his daughter.

I finally felt compelled to do something about the conviction in my heart, and I knew the next step for me was to inform my parents. God and I had shared this secret for so long, it was a little hard for me to tell anyone else, for fear I'd be dead wrong, and make a fool of myself. But I knew that if it was God's will for me to marry Eileen, He had the means to keep her for me, even though she was several years older than I. Once I told my parents about it, I felt peaceful calm settle over me, and could just rest under their authority, knowing that they were praying and wanted the best for my life. I was thankful many times for the protection I received under the umbrella of their authority, and as I found out, it was a very necessary protection during our courtship.

It wasn't long until my parents felt clear to proceed, so Dad went ahead and talked to Eileen's father about my interest, and her parents quickly agreed to it also. I then had the opportunity to talk to them myself, and they were the ones who first broke the news to Eileen (who promptly lost a night of sleep over it!). I had been praying earnestly that if this all were God's will, He would prepare her heart for it. The pronounced peace she felt about everything seemed like such a direct and clear answer to those prayers. As we discovered later,

God had indeed prepared her heart without her ever knowing what all was happening. It seemed many times as if a marvelous drama was unfolding in my life, but I felt much more like a spectator than an actor. Needless to say, I got a positive response from her, to begin a relationship with the intent of pursuing marriage.

Although we both felt very peaceful about it, and had the blessing of our authorities, we did not want to immediately enter a binding relationship without getting to know each other some more. After several spiritually stimulating times together, we were ready for an "official" courtship announcement.

Once I told my parents about it, I felt a peaceful calm settle over me, and I could just rest under their authority...I was thankful many times for the protection I received under the umbrella of their authority....

Eileen's father made that one evening in church, and then they had a prayer for us as we begin our courtship. We felt so richly blessed with the support of our families, the church and many friends behind us, wishing God's blessing on our lives.

What began as a spiritual relationship quickly progressed into an exciting time for our emotions and hearts to be released to each other. Here is where we definitely needed to have godly authorities safeguarding our lives who could hold us back when necessary and give practical guidance and oversight in our relationship. We spent many Sunday afternoons reading and discussing Scripture together, praying together, taking walks, and spending quality time with our families. This was enhanced by frequent letters, emails, and cards. Living in the same area, we also had frequent opportunities to share in each other's daily lives, enjoy a dinner together, or just have a friendly chat. We knew that a happy marriage doesn't just happen, and we tried to build a solid foundation for our future. That also meant restraining ourselves during courtship, so that we could enter marriage with no regrets. For us, it included a hands-off relationship, and staying open and honest with each other and our parents. We tried to avoid any opportunities of

making provision for the flesh, knowing we are all humans, susceptible to temptations, which would pull us quickly down a path we had no business being on.

Toward the end of our courtship, I spent six weeks in Africa on a short mission trip, which just proved the fact that “many waters cannot quench love”. I came home more in love than ever, and it didn’t go long until I asked Eileen to be my wife. She said yes, by the way. We quickly planned an early spring wedding, invited our guests, and busied ourselves with many preparations. God answered our prayers and gave us a beautiful day to begin our marriage. There was such a surge of joyful happiness in my heart as I stood at the marriage altar, took my bride’s hands for the first time, and with no regrets for our past, just joyful expectancy for the future, pledged my life wholly and unreservedly to my one and only for as long as we both shall live.

From there, our relationship has deepened and grown, and continues to do so, as we honestly share with each other the daily joys and sorrows of life. Open communication has been a key for us in keeping our love strong in Christ. The solid foundation that our relationship is built on has also sustained us through any fears or doubts from the enemy. As I look back on our courtship, there is no way around the fact of God’s marvelous peace in both of our lives as He lovingly brought us together and made us one in Him. Our desire is

that He would stay in the very center of our lives forever.

We trust you can be blessed and inspired to go for the best God has for your life concerning courtship and marriage. He is no respecter of persons, and delights in giving us the desires of our hearts. The rewards are richly fulfilling in being able to look back on our courtship and have absolutely no regrets, thanks to our godly parents, biblical teaching, and most of all, the delightful guidance of our Heavenly Father.

Eileen

My testimony is first of all one of God’s mercy and love in spite of my own failures in my early teenage years. I did lots of reading and much of that supposedly “Christian” romance books. They were deceptive to my heart because of the frequent recognition of God and even sal-

vation that was woven through them. Even so, that reading put my mind in an unhealthy state of dreaming about marriage. As I grew older and began to hear a high standard lifted up for courtship, and as my heart embraced that standard for my own life, I experienced times of intense struggling to keep my heart. I wept in anguish on my knees before God, begging Him to help me keep my heart for the one that He already knows will be my husband one day. My mind had been



entirely too occupied with thoughts up to then of who that might be, and the struggle was not easy. But God saw my deep desire for right and He completely delivered me from even the desire to pick up a book that promoted an unrealistic view of marriage. How I praise God for that miracle! Then He answered my prayers specifically by arranging circumstances in my life so that I was able to experience healing from some of the damage in my heart caused by years of undisciplined thoughts about my future. I was overwhelmed by His love that would do that just for me. This was a precious time of seeing the rottenness of my heart and drawing nigh to God. He became my dear Friend as well as my Father. My parents, too, were understanding and helpful to me, and I know my mother threw away quite a few books out of concern for my sisters and me. They desired a godly marriage for me and did their best to guide me toward that. They encouraged me to be involved in God's work, and prayed for me concerning my future many times.

When I was 19, they sacrificed to allow me to go and live with a dear, godly home schooling family of ten children who were looking for a girl to help out since their youngest had severe health problems. I believe my parents knew this would be an excellent time of growth for me before marriage. None of us knew the blessings we would all reap from this time. Here the standard of godliness was raised even higher for me, just one more beautiful step toward the plan God had for my life. During the year and a half I spent with them, the healing in my heart continued as I learned more about giving myself to authority and giving and receiving love. While I often wondered about the future, I prayed about it and committed it to God many times. During one of those

times, I vividly recall a quiet confirmation in my heart that God indeed was preparing me for marriage, and that He was preparing the young man as well. I also remember realizing that I had no idea who it was. The joy of knowing God had it all taken care of brought a delightful rest to my heart in spite of the curiosity I felt about it all. Toward the end of my stay, my



I experienced times of intense struggling to keep my heart. I wept in anguish on my knees before God, begging Him to help me keep my heart for the one that He already knows will be my husband one day.

nearly life-long desire to go on the foreign mission field became so strong that I wrote to my parents about it, seeking their advice on how to direct my heart in that. They encouraged me to make any preparations possible, and began to pray about a short-term ministry, but told me they didn't think I would be going long-term as a single girl. When an opportunity arose to go to Africa with a team of youth for seven weeks, we were ecstatic! It was an absolutely precious time of growing closer to God along with having the glorious opportunity to witness the love of Jesus to souls everywhere we went. While

there, I had another quiet confirmation in my heart that any time I spent in missions on foreign soil long-term would not be as a single girl. It was not difficult to yield my heart to God in that, because I knew He had only my best in mind. My parents' heart in that was another witness to me of His will in the matter.

The next winter, I decided to focus on learning to know God's voice, and had many precious hours alone with God, again because of His arranging circumstances in an unusual way. While I was in Ghana, my grandfather passed away suddenly, leaving my grandmother with a small store. My parents decided that I would spend a few days a week with her, and care for the store to give her a rest from that responsibility. During the one hour drive to her house and the many quiet hours in the store, God ministered to my heart again and again. I listened for God's voice through the Bible on cassette and sweet times of prayer. I would never trade those eight months, even though at the time I did not realize what they were leading me to.

I distinctly remember one week when I was there working as usual. The presence of God was extra sweet and close as I went about my tasks those days. I remember thinking how delightedly satisfied I was with God Himself as my All in All. One morning I awoke at 5am feeling compelled to prayer. As I knelt, two issues in my life were distinctly before me as I prayed—missions and marriage. As I gave them to God, my heart was so at rest in the knowledge that both were in His hands, and I was absolutely safe to trust Him with my future. That whole day was a precious time of communion with God, and the ride home to my family even sweeter. That evening as I sat with them in the living room, I

remember thinking how absolutely peaceful my heart was about everything! And that was the evening my parents told me of PD's interest in starting a courtship. Although I was very surprised, I couldn't say I was unprepared. There were so many little details to look back on from the previous weeks that were clear evidences of God's tenderness in preparing my heart for this particular day. That night was nearly sleepless for me as I tried to process this beautiful surprise, but when I did awaken in the morning, the song that rang through my mind, "I Stand, I Stand in Awe of You", expressed the wonder in my heart. Truly, the next few days were full of awe as I pondered and prayed. Perhaps what amazed me the most was how God dropped this gift so unexpectedly in my lap. Since I had struggled to keep my heart for so many years, it was an act of unbelievable Father-love that He kept me oblivious to the qualities in this young man. It seemed to me this was God's way of saying,

"My daughter, the gift of this man's love is from Me, and Me alone." Even then, in the recent days before this, He hadn't left me totally unprepared.

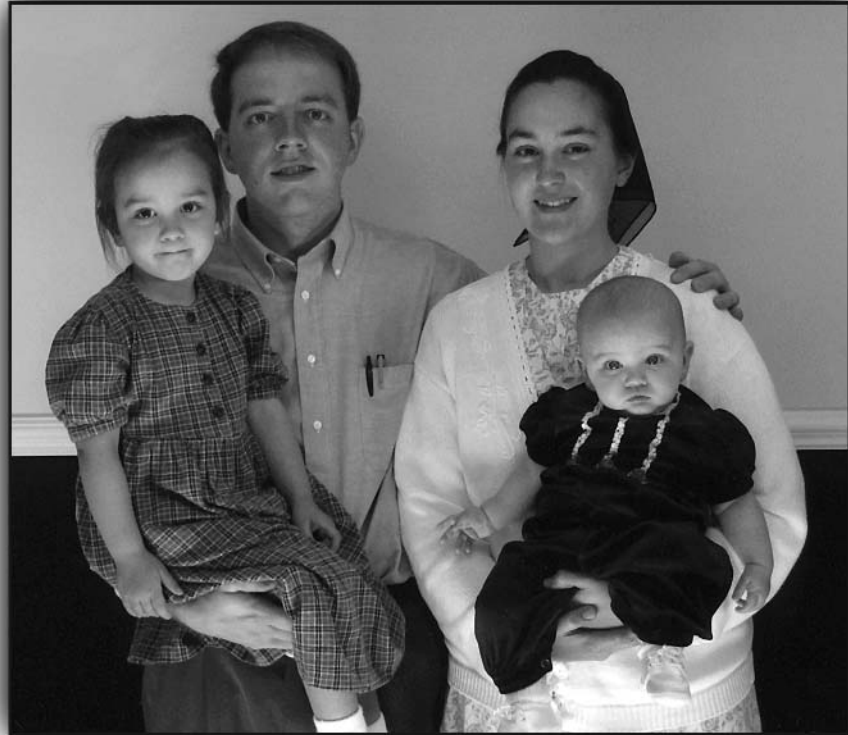
As my parents and I prayed, I realized that there were occasions that I had almost subconsciously recognized godly qualities in PD, and really respected his walk with God, evidenced by his life. Daddy had just spent a whole year as his prayer group leader in church, and had established a wonderful spiritual relationship with him, so he was very happy

about this. Both of my parents already had a deep appreciation for him, and gave me positive encouragement to open my heart up to seriously consider courtship. They had been praying for specific direction for my life, and were quite sure this was the answer. While we had

That whole day was a precious time of communion with God, and the ride home to my family even sweeter. That evening as I sat with them in the living room, I remember thinking how absolutely peaceful my heart was about everything! And that was the evening my parents told me of PD's interest in starting a courtship.

known PD for years and our families had been close, I didn't know a lot about his personal life, so I asked questions and Daddy talked to him about different things regarding where he is headed spiritually. I also asked his parents some questions, mostly just seeing how compatible we really were. As we prayed and talked, the peace of God just came and settled deeply on my heart, so that I felt foolish to ask any more questions. When I prayed, talked, or pondered—there it was, such indescribable PEACE. I was so blessed by the approach PD had taken, by going first of all to his parents and having them come to my parents. That showed the authority issue was settled in his heart.

A few days after I was told of his interest, my dad approached him with permission to give me an official request for my friendship, which I then received in a written letter. What an overwhelming joy to read his words asking me to consider starting a relationship with marriage in mind! I never realized that such a serious decision could be faced with so much peace and confidence. In a few days, PD received a positive answer from me. We had not talked together at all since he first showed an interest in courtship. After he received his answer by letter, we had a brief phone conversation, during which he thanked me for my answer and we marveled together over God's amazing ways. I found out that he had been praying about this for two years, but kept it quiet in his heart until he felt compelled to share it with his parents. His integrity in being able to do that was such a blessing to me. Our first times of sharing together were so sweet as we reveled under the smile of approval from all authorities in our lives. God's peace remained strong in our relationship and became the theme of our courtship.



We spent 10 blessed months getting to know each other, spending time in God's word, and learning to blend our hearts. We were very grateful for the direction given to us by my parents and both families had input in our courtship as we spent time together with them. The commitment to purity was strong in our hearts, and there was never even a question about whether we would have a hands-off relationship. This gave us much security and built respect in our hearts for each other over the months. During the last months of our courtship, we prayed much about the wedding, desiring with all our hearts to see Christ glorified above all else. We both wanted a simple, godly wedding. God honored those desires far above what we could have asked or thought! The day we exchanged vows was full of sweetness as God's blessing was pronounced upon us once again. Only God can take two hearts that have lived individual lives and blend them in such sweet union.

In the days following our wedding, we have known a deeper meaning of love as we are learning to walk together as two imperfect

continued on page 22

The Cowboy Spirit

by Clifford Fox



Recently I have seen professing Christians dressed in cowboy-western clothes complete with boots, big belt buckle and even the big Stetson style Cowboy hats. It sadly reminded me of my youth

before I was born again. It started me thinking. Why do I view that as wrong? What Biblical basis do I have for not approving of this type of clothes?

As an unconverted youth, my friends had this country-

western music and I soon grew to love it. Looking back, it is shocking to me that I, a professing Christian, could sing along with songs of immorality without seeing how incongruous it was to the Biblical standards.

Through the years I have come to notice that If you tell me the type of songs that a person sings and the type of clothes that he wears, I have a fairly good picture of what his character is like. The Bible states that "by your fruits ye shall know them." We must ask ourselves, is our life showing the fruit of the Spirit or unrighteousness!

Now, I am not saying that you can not wear a hat or boots and be a true disciple of God. I am sure that there are some born again, godly people who are wearing these clothes probably from little up. Perhaps your job requires you to wear boots. I am not against wearing things appropriate for the conditions you are in. I would just like to raise the concern and ask the question to make sure we are truly aware of what we are representing.

As a follower of Jesus Christ we will desire, as much as possible, to have the same meek and humble attitudes and display the same simple dress that He did. Someone who has the new nature of Christ would naturally not want to appear copying the influences and ways of the spirit of the world. For example, is another circle, a person who wants to be known as a "toughie" or "rebel" may wear



As a follower of Jesus Christ we will desire...to have the same meek and humble attitudes and display the same simple dress that He did. Someone who has the new nature of Christ would naturally not want to appear copying the influences and ways of the spirit of the world.

leather clothes or have a Mohawk haircut.

Did you ever notice how quick people are to form friendships around the type of things that you wear or own? Two complete strangers can meet and know immediately by what they look like that this person has mutual interests! You notice two motorcyclists giving each other thumbs up as they pass one another on the road. Or two people who are driving Jeeps wave to each other even though one is out of state license plate! They don't need to know each other; they have a common bond. It is the same with the cowboy clothes. They feel that they have common ground simply by the tastes that are portrayed.

Doesn't that make us stop and think about what spirit we are portraying in how we dress? Should a Christian be portraying a cowboy spirit?

humble spirit?

And that brings us to just what is a cowboy spirit? What comes to your mind when you see the cowboy hat, boots, etc.? The country-western music is closely attached to the spirit of cowboys and gives us many insights to what this clothing style is representing. Now, I am not saying that just because you wear a cowboy hat, etc., now suddenly you become a wild cowboy straight from the movies. But, please be mindful that you are in fact, portraying this attitude to people whether you intend to or not.

Here are a few things that come to my mind in connection to cowboys.

1. A wanderer; someone with no place to call home, an unstable person.
2. A loose immoral life, living with multiple partners.
3. A "tough" person, one

Should we not rather be dressed in a way that shows a meek and

who is self-sufficient, even proud of himself. (I'm cool if I wear these clothes.)

4. A "free" person with no strings attached to any place or person, irresponsible, a loner.
5. A rebellious person, not wanting any authority over him, his own boss.
6. A gun carrying, stand for your rights no matter what it costs the other person attitude, a criminal waiting to happen.
7. A tobacco user. (Ever notice how the tobacco companies advertise to try to make the users appear macho?)

Again, please don't get me wrong; I certainly believe that there are people who wear these clothes and are innocent of *all* of the above. I also do not believe that the actual cowboys of years gone by were, in general, this type of person. But they have been glamorized by novels, songs, movies, etc. to be the ultimate expression of the attitude of "be your own man"; able to outshoot



any cattle thief or Indian band. They are portrayed as tough, macho men who are not afraid of anyone or anything. They can outride the wildest bucking bronco. They are tough!

So let us go back to the Biblical principles for the clothes we wear. We are to live in simplicity. 2Co 1:12 states "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in *simplicity* and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God,

also to abstain from fornication (Acts 15:20) and from fleshly lusts. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. (1Pe 2:11)

A macho or proud look is no small thing to God. The Bible teaches us that God will judge those who are proud. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. (Mt 23:12) A rebel-

we have had our conversation [whole way of life] in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

Further, the Bible teaches us to abstain (stay away from) all appearance of evil. (1Th 5:22) We are

lions spirit is also a grief to God. God will judge those who are rebels against the government. 2Pe 2:10 states "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities."

So let me state that my purpose for writing this article is not to condemn but to encourage each of us to go through our closets and dump those clothes that do not exemplify Christ. But more importantly let us go through the closets of our minds and look at the attitudes and thought patterns that are there and "see if there be any wicked way in me". 1 Peter 3:3 says it well: Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of *putting on of apparel*; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a *meek and quiet spirit*, which is in the sight of God of *great price*. □

continued from page 19, Our Courtship Testimony by PD & Eileen Weaver

human beings. It is God's love that keeps our commitment to each other strong and unwavering. We have found that honesty toward each other can be painful, but always takes our love to deeper levels and frees us in our relationship with God. Though I know that I have failed already to walk perfectly in my role as a wife, I can honestly say that our marriage has only grown sweeter! How

sweet it is to seek God's will together and find mutual agreement in His leading. Ten months after our wedding, we experienced the joy of being parents! Little Esther has brought new dimensions to our love as we gaze on her sweet countenance and realize the opportunity we have to guide her heart toward God. The joy we have shared over her young life has been abundant. I am eager to fol-

low on wherever God will lead my dear husband, and am blessed indeed to be his wife. The love he has shown me has given me a beautiful new perspective of Christ's love for the church. PD's leadership has blessed my life so much, especially as God teaches me to rest under the protection of his authority. God's order is truly beautiful if we can only accept it as simple as it is! □

The Fruit of One Single Act of *Kindness*

Originally: *Giving Honor to the
Little Man of Mindoro for the Glory of God!*

by Doug Nichols

Margaret and I began our ministry in the Philippines in 1970 on the small island of Mindoro. As new missionaries, we were discouraged. We not only struggled to learn a new language and a new culture, but we also had no income for three months. In fact, we did not even have one dollar. Early one morning during a typhoon, Margaret shook me awake and groaned in pain. "Doug, my side hurts!"

I ignored the wind and rain blowing against our little house and jumped out of bed. Flipping through our medical book, I decided she might have appendicitis. But how could I find a doctor at this time of night? Perhaps the neighbors could help. When I woke them up at 2 a.m., they told me of a Christian Filipino doctor who had a small mission clinic about 15 kilometers

...you will never know the impact of what simple acts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, forgiveness, forbearance, and love will have on the gospel to God's glory to the ends of the earth.



We laid her on a table, and I held a lantern while he gave her a spinal shot and performed an appendectomy.

away. When they let me borrow their scooter, I wrapped Margaret up and put her on the back.

I drove slowly in the pouring rain, trying to miss the potholes in the muddy dirt road. About 4 a.m., I knocked on the doctor's door. Even though Filipinos are friendly and hospitable, I was nervous at the reception we might receive at that hour.

A small man in his night-clothes opened the door. He smiled graciously and asked, "May I help you?" "Doctor," I said, "my wife seems to be seriously ill. Can you please help?" After examining Margaret, the doctor announced that he needed to operate for appendicitis right away.

The doctor wanted to watch Margaret closely in case of infection, so we cleared a space and set up a bed in his storeroom. For five days, this little doctor and his assistants cared for Margaret. They even fed us, as we were penniless. While Margaret rested and slept, I helped at the clinic by cutting grass, sorting medical supplies, helping with record keeping, sharing the Word of God, and caring for patients.

When it was time to leave, we were embarrassed over our lack of funds. "Doctor," I said, "you've saved my wife's life, and we're so grateful." Jokingly, I added, "I have no money to pay now, but I can give you my watch, my wedding ring, and the gold in my false teeth. But seriously, how can I pay you?"

This loving, gracious man took my hands in his, looked up at this tall new missionary and said, "Brother, there is no charge. The Lord brought you to my country to serve my people in the name of Christ, so I can serve you. There is no charge, brother, no charge!"

Margaret and I left that little out-of-the-way clinic no longer discouraged but with a renewed love for Christ, His work, and for the people He had called us to serve. Because of the kindness, graciousness, and compassion of this little man from Mindoro, we have been able to continue in ministry for 35 years.

Recently, I spoke to a church of 2,400 people in Metro Manila, Philippines. The title of my message was, "Don't Just Stand There, Put on Something," based on Colossians 3:1-14. As I spoke about the garment of kindness that we should put on, I told the story about the little doctor of Mindoro. I then said, "It has been 35 years since I have seen that doctor—until this morning. Ladies and gentlemen, may I intro-

duce Dr. Romeo Santiago, the godly little doctor from Mindoro!"

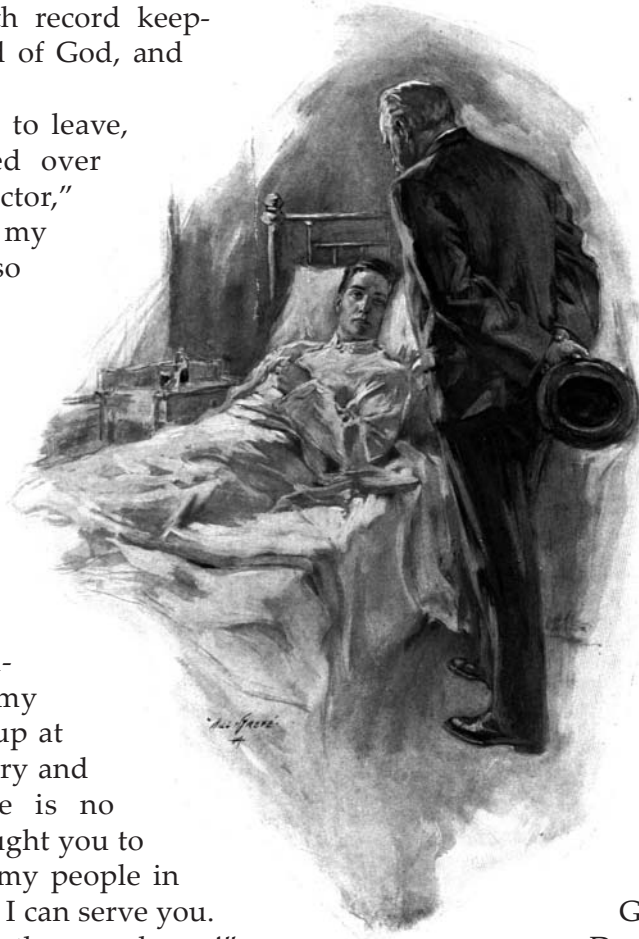
Dr. Santiago was sitting near the front. His daughters had heard that I was speaking that morning and had brought him from bed rest, since he had been in a Manila hospital for various physical problems.

When the doctor staggered to his feet with the help of a cane and his daughters, the church erupted in thunderous applause. The congregation wept and continued to applaud. The pastors immediately went to shake his hands, and people encircled him, embracing him and thanking him again and again. It was a wonderful outpouring of praise to God for this doctor's faithful Christian life.

God, in His gracious and sovereign will, encouraged over 2,000 people in their Christian walk with this simple story and in personally meeting Dr. Santiago, who has served God faithfully for many years.

Dear friend, you may never be so honored. You may not have even ten people applaud your name, but you will never know the impact of what simple acts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, forgiveness, forbearance, and love will have on the gospel to God's glory to the ends of the earth.

Because of the kindness of Dr. Santiago, Margaret and I were encouraged to remain in the ministry. You, too, can reach out to others with simple acts of kindness in Jesus' name for His glory. Who knows? Perhaps 15, 25, or 35 years from now someone will say to you, "Remember when you helped me? Your kindness so encouraged me in my walk with God that I have served Him for many years. Thank you so much. To God be the glory." □



WASHED *in the* BLOOD

An early Anabaptist
article on salvation
through the blood
of Christ

by Peter Jansz of Twisk (1624)



**Jesus...has pacified the
wrath of God and found
pardon in our stead.
He has made eternal
salvation possible....**

Jesus was sacrificed and offered up for all men that he may sanctify and wash us in His blood through his death so that man may be cleansed of sin and from the sins his conscience thinks. Therefore, through faith we know that our salvation is made possible. He has pacified the wrath of God and found pardon in our stead. He has made eternal salvation possible as the word clearly teaches in Psalm 69; "I restored that which I took not away". Isaiah 53:4-5; "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." God placed all our sins upon Jesus so that our sins could be washed in His blood.

Washing

It is clear when men wash, two things must be present. First, water to wash with and second, that which is unclean brought forth. Jesus' blood is the water and the unclean is the sin of man. Many old and new teachers have proclaimed this. While other teachers oppress this teaching by saying; Jesus has not fully redeemed us from the wrath of God the Father nor washed away our sins with and in His blood.

We have been warned not to be deceived by the sublimity of false teachers that depart from the true word of God, nor are we to be led away from the true witnesses of Christ in part or in entirety. We cannot depend on the authority of ancient writers, but only on the Holy Scriptures.

I will endeavor to support the true teachers where they are in harmony with God's word. That is why I quoted from the old and the new teachers as true witnesses of Christ known as the Anabaptist. I have chosen Anabaptist writers of different locations who are of one mind to warn us of the false teachings of sects that cause even more divisions by their deceptions. It is far better to seek Godly unity than to create more divisions. We have been warned that in time many false interpretations will rise up and influence many souls.

These false teachings can be compared to a farmer that sets his neighbor's house on fire and then the flames ignite and destroy his own house. Just like that, we have all suffered from the fall of Adam.

I would remind the readers that while the apostle Andrew was on the gallows of the cross he told of the mysteries of God becoming man and the priceless treasures of His suffering. (Martyrs Mirror pg. 87)

The Fall of Man

John Heyjen tells us that the first man Adam after being created from the earth fell into disobedience (or transgressed) and brought death (no longer eternal life) upon not only himself but upon us all. Because of this, all men fell in the need of Jesus' suffering so that eternal life could again be restored.

Jesus was born a perfect man through the Virgin Mary from the eternal Word which had also created the first man Adam. Eternal life has again been offered through the suffering and death of Jesus to all that accept Him and receive through Him the same innocent flesh of the first Adam so that they too can live forever. Jesus destroyed the untamable lust in the second Adam and stretched out His sinless hand from the cross to the sinners' hand for all were guilty under the curse of Adam. Jesus has made restitution for man eating from the forbidden fruit, by tasting the bitter gall of death for our sake. This was so that we through His death can become partakers of eternal life. May God Almighty, the God of heaven give us His beloved Son Jesus Christ, His grace and eternal life; Amen.

Atonement

Because of the incomprehensible sin of our forefather Adam, the curse of God's anger and displeasure (wrath) fell upon us all. Jesus the only begotten Son of God was sent to stand between God and us to pacify the wrath of the merciful and just God. Why? It is because God loves us. Reconciliation will take place between man and God the heavenly Father.

Deliverance is best understood when we realize that we were taken captive under sin. As the spirit of the scriptures teaches, God is an enemy to the sin of man. But, through merits and partitions of Jesus, restitution was made between God and man and the curse that lied upon us was lifted and grace was restored for us. This means that the unrighteousness of man was settled with God through the life offering (sacrifice) of Jesus. Man was lost through Adam but found again through Jesus; man had been separated from God but again united with God through Jesus dying on the cross for all men. Looking into the scriptures it is clear how helpless and hopeless

we were under the curse of eternal sin and death and were it not for the Messiah loving us, and God in His mercy laying aside His anger and wrath toward us we would have been eternally lost. It is difficult for us to comprehend how utterly lost we would have been if the Father and the Son had not loved us enough to save those who believe. If we do not receive this gift in the blood of the Son of God with all thankfulness we are then without an advocate and eternally lost. If we ignore or reject this gift and choose to follow the inherited nature of the



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flesh by serving sin, we will inherit the plagues of eternal punishment.

We lost our opportunity of having innocent forever living flesh like Adam was created in when Adam sinned. But because we were delivered through the Messiah from eternal death unto the forgiveness of sin our innocent forever living flesh will be restored to us and our bodies will once again be in perfection in the resurrection.

True Deliverance

Deliverance of sin and death through forgiveness of sins means, when we are born again sin can no longer hold us captive which is our deliverance from eternal death. As long as there is an absence of an evil conscience, fake hope or fear of God's wrath, nor eternal hell, nor the fears of the horrors of unending death.

I will relate an example. If God saw that you were a sinner, and because he didn't care about you, He condemned you for your sin, then He would let you sink in misery to no end. But, because He was willing to grant you undeserved grace, He left His home in glory to search the mountains for His lost sheep.

We were found in our blood of sin, yet we were adopted as His children and rescued from corruption. Our hearts should be touched with thankfulness and we should give praise to the merciful God whom we owe so much and have nothing to repay. The scriptures tell us of how we have been estranged from God and how we have angered Him through our sin. Because of this we have fell under His curse and have been deprived of all hope of salvation, comfort and blessings and have

become servants of Satan being held captive by sin and condemned to the chambers of hell. When Jesus, the advocate and redeemer, stepped in between us and God, He did what we could not do by accepting upon Himself the punishment we so abundantly deserved and that by the righteousness of God has come over all the world.

He wiped out our sins with His blood and brought light, peace and joy to the harsh judgments of the heavenly Father. Our hearts shall never cease to praise the goodness of God and be as thankful and obedient children all the days of our life. How much more should we honor Him than we would honor high esteemed people for their deeds of kindness and their mission of help in rescuing us? He is King of all Kings and Lord of heaven and earth and the One we all have to meet as the judge of the living and the dead. Unworthily we have such a High Priest. (Matthew 28:18, Acts 10:4, 17:31.) *"For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."* (Hebrews 7:26)

Worthy

Luabbert Gerritsz says, "We can see what a stinking pool sin is in the eyes of God wherein we had fallen. So that no prophet, patriarch or most holy born of women, or no angels were perfect or holy enough to purify or help fallen man and pay the ransom in the eyes as flames of fire. There needed to be one more holy and higher to rescue us in our fallen state of sin and slavery. We needed one stronger than ourselves to help us unfold the bands of death. Oh how he needed to be rich to help us



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Unworthily we have such a
High Priest.**

poor creatures! He knew our poverty better than we ourselves. He had a clearer vision than we, as He was the one to enlighten us. He understood better the blindness of our hearts, and the darkness He saw as in the light. He was blessed more and above us to bring the blessing to us. He knew the weight of our transgressions because He paid for them and blotted out our debts. He was higher than we, so he could lift us up. So we could better understand the fall that would lead to the pit of the lost. May we sufficiently lament our fallen condition and see how hopeless we would have been of ourselves, if He would not have died that we may live (to prepare for the endless eternity, had not God let the Morning Star shine upon us)."

Holiness

May we follow the scriptures as the children of Israel followed the pillar of a cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night to find their way to the land of Canaan. Like the Israelites sought to enter the land of Canaan by gathering manna to continue their physical existence, we seek a freedom of grief, sin, misery, weakness, and the restoration of righteousness and eternal life unto perfect salvation by gathering a spiritual manna of deep concern in the deliverance of man from slavery (sin) through the fruits of the death, blood, and suffering of Jesus. His chosen ones life in this world will exemplify humbleness with self denial walking in faith accompanied by good works with the Holy Spirit. When Satan, the world, and self is overcome there will no longer be the handwriting on the wall that was written against us. The thought of our sins



May we sufficiently lament our fallen condition and see how hopeless we would have been of ourselves, if He would not have died that we may live....

one fold and will no longer remember the falling of man and will dwell in the mountain of light. This was foretold in the epistles of Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Samson, Daniel, Solomon, the Red Sea, the Passover Lamb, the offerings, the copper serpent and of all other figures and then fulfilled by the Holy One of God. The fruit of Jesus' suffering, (the forgiveness of sin, a good conscience, purifying of the soul, a living hope, and eternal life) is harvested at the same time our flesh is crucified.

In these dark and deceiving times I wish to set before the eyes of the reader (the God fearing) a few more scriptures of the true fruits of the sufferings of Jesus so that they may not fail to understand the inexpressible love Jesus showed in our redemption. This writing will be to the honor and glory of God.

Victory

To enlighten, understand, to love God more and more, and to seek to be more abundant, I will quote what God the heavenly Father said to Satan in Gen 3:15. *"And I will put enmity between*

thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise his heel." From these words we can understand that God the heavenly Father has promised that His Son Jesus will bruise the head of the serpent. This means that the power Satan has over mankind will be broken at the cross. And this will be fulfilled by the death of Jesus on the cross. Paul said in Heb 14 that Jesus through His death was given the power to take away the sin of man that the devil possessed. In Col 2:14 it says, *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross"*. In Is 53:8 and 1Pet 2:24 it says that Jesus was wounded for our sins and has taken our transgressions. In 1 Cor 15:55-57 it says, *"O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"*.

Redeemed

Through sin and the strength of Satan we have been bound and through Jesus our Saviour (our resistance) our sin has been taken away. (Mt 12:29, Mk 3:27, Lk 11:20-22.) So also was the Highest in the world judged and crucified and the God fearing were drawn unto Him—Jesus. ((Jn 12:31, Rom 16:19, 1 Pet 5:9, Ja 4:17.) Menno Simons said that Adam and Eve were deceived and because of this they became children of Satan, death, and were held as slaves of sin with all their descendants. They would have remained eternally lost in this sad condition were it not for God, the merciful heavenly Father, who loved,

helped, and comforted them through Jesus His Son. He overcame Satan and through grace forgave their sins.

Jacob, the chandler, writes that after Adam had fallen into sin with all his descendants, God, the heavenly merciful Father had repeatedly promised to send His Son. As stated in 1Pet 1:9 *"As of a Lamb without blemish and without spot"* whom He had foreseen from the beginning of the world would deliver all mankind from eternal death through His own blood.

Joost Verkindert wrote that Jesus laid down His life for His beloved and that the children of our Lord Jesus Christ were cleansed from the inherited sin of Adam. (Please refer to Rom 5 and 1 Cor 15.)

Reytse Aysess was drowned in Leeuwaerden in 1574 for the testimony of Jesus Christ. He wrote that *"Christ has redeemed us from the fall and transgression of Adam."* If God had not rescued us from the inherited sin that Adam had brought upon us we could not have been saved. Jesus has saved us through His flesh and blood and freed us all from sin. Because of Jesus, Satan can no longer have power over mankind because of the sin of Adam. If it had not been for the sin of Adam there would have been no need

for a Saviour. But as it was, Christ needed to bruise the head of Satan and take away his power. This was not only for the sake of Adam and Eve, but for all their descendants. Because of Adam's fall and the power of Satan all men were drawn into death and this was the reason why God had to redeem all mankind from sin and Satan because all were lying under Satan's power.



...Christ needed to bruise the head of Satan and take away his power.

Promises

It would seem strange to explain this in

any other way and neither is it found written in any other way in the scriptures. Paul wrote in Rom 5:18, *“Therefore as by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”* In 1 Cor 15:22 it is written, *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”*

And so, all nations upon the earth had fallen under the curse.

Even unto the generations of Abraham were these promises of forgiveness void and there was no redemption to either the young or the old as they were all under sin and the curse. But they looked forward to the fulfillment of redemption that God had promised in Rom 3:9 and 19:23. In the 18th letter of Lubbert Gerritsz he is quoted as saying the following in regards to the above mentioned scriptures. *“It is manifest that all nations have fallen through sin into eternal damnation. They had looked for the promised seed to come, that would take away the root or reason of damnation, and the sprouts of fruit that it bore. These are the two foremost promises to our salvation”.*

The ransom for our salvation in the Messiah, which we do not want to lose sight of, as two witnesses preserved in our heart. That Christ has paid it all and cleansed us from all sin, reconciled us with the Father, and taken away the power Satan had over us. These are short words, but they contain great hidden truth as the Saviour needed to crush Satan’s head by dying on the cross. Because Jesus overcame sin and death, His resurrection and ascension were the triumph of victory. He was not only man, but in truth He was God and man. The point of God becoming man was because *“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

The Perfect Sacrifice

When God wanted to help His children and take away their sins, He needed someone to die who had no sin; as there can be no forgiveness of sin, if one sinner is to die for another sinner. Only one who is perfect, fullness of goodness

and righteousness and without sin could stand in our place and plead to the Father for us and satisfy the wrath of God who had condemned us unto death. Jesus stood in our place and carried and paid for the sinner’s debt so that we could be redeemed from the power and tyranny of the devil. God the Father wanted to be reconciled and pacified concerning our sins and wanted to see the head of Satan crushed so He could free us. Jesus laid down His life and died, and then arose from the dead; as it was impossible for Him to remain dead because of our sins which He had taken upon Himself. If Jesus could not have risen from the dead our eternal life could not be restored and He could not have helped fallen man because sin and death follow each other. He paid the price in full and wiped out our sins, arose from the dead, and brought eternal life so that death and Satan could no longer condemn us. We have no other Redeemer than Jesus Christ and there will be no other in all of eternity.

The Ransom

We can read in Gal 3:16-17 that the covenant made with Abraham and his seed was confirmed before God in Christ and the law of Moses was 430 years thereafter. This means that no one could find salvation or blessing outside the faith in Jesus Christ because outside of Christ there is no salvation or blessings. Salvation was not included in the blessings of Abraham, as the curse was still not removed by Jesus death. This means that at this time there could not be peace between God and man. Peace could only materialize with the man’s birth of Christ, His death, resurrection, and eternal life, which is all part of the promises offered by the Messiah. Then, and only then, will there be forgiveness of sin, freedom from eternal death, and condemnation of hell upon earth, and eternal life by the ransom of the advocate. Only after all these things have taken place will our innocence, holiness, and righteousness be restored, the law perfectly fulfilled through the blood of Christ, and confidence, truth and peace will be renewed with God unto eternal life as it was with Adam before the fall. How could man wish for more?! □

The Village That Lived By The Bible

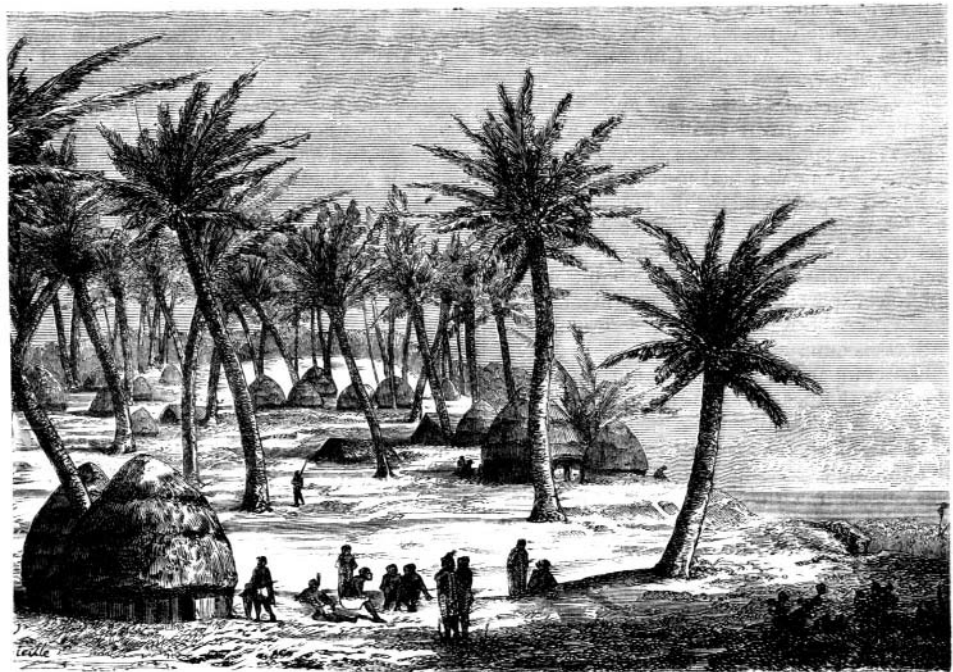
by Clarence W. Hall

It was early in 1945 when, as a war correspondent on Okinawa, I first came upon Shimabuku, the strangest and most inspiring community I ever saw. Huddled beneath its groves of banyan and twisted pine trees, this remote village of some 1000 souls was in the path of the 'American' advance and so received a severe shelling.

But when an advance patrol swept up to the village compound, the GI's stopped dead in their tracks. Barring their way were two little old men; they bowed low and began to speak. The battle-hardened sergeant, Wary of tricks, held up his hand, summoned an interpreter. The interpreter shook his head. "I don't get it. Seems we're being welcomed as 'fellow Christians'. One says he's the mayor of the village, the other's the schoolmaster. That's a Bible the older one has in his hand..."

Guided by the two old men—Mojun Nakamura the mayor and Shosei Kina the schoolmaster—we cautiously

Proudly the two old men showed us their spotless homes, their terraced fields, fertile and neat, their store-



toured the compound. We'd seen other Okinawan villages, uniformly down-at-the-heels and despairing; by contrast, this one shone like a diamond in a dung heap. Everywhere we were greeted by smiles and dignified bows.

houses and granaries, their prized sugar mill.

Gravely the old men talked on, and the interpreter said, "They've met only one American before, long ago. Because he was a Christian they assume we are, too—

though they can't quite understand why we came in shooting."

Piecemeal, the incredible story came out. Thirty years before, an American missionary on his way to Japan had paused at Shimabuku. He'd stayed only long enough to make a pair of converts (these same two men), teach them a couple of hymns, leave them a Japanese translation of the Bible and exhort them to live by it. They'd had no contact with any Christian since. Yet during those 30 years; guided by the Bible, they had managed to create a Christian democracy at its purest.

How had it happened? Picking their way through the Bible, the two converts had found not only an inspiring "Person" on whom to pattern a life, but sound precepts on which to base their society. They'd adopted the Ten Commandments as Shimabuku's legal code; the Sermon on the Mount as their guide to social conduct. In Kina's school the Bible was the chief literature; it was read daily by all students, and major passages were memorised. In Nakamura's village government the precepts of the Bible were law.

Nurtured on this Book, a whole generation of Shimabukans had drawn from it their ideas of human dignity and of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. The result was plain to see. Shimabuku for years had had no jail, no brothel, no drunk-

ness, no divorce; there was a high level of health and happiness.

Next day, the tide of battle swept us on. But a few days later, during a lull, I requisitioned a jeep and a speaking driver and went back to Shimabuku. Over the winding roads outside the village, huge truck convoys and endless lines of American troops moved dustily; behind them lumbered armoured tanks, heavy artillery. But inside, Shimabuku was an oasis of serenity.



Once again I strolled through the quiet village streets, soaking up Shimabuku's calm.

There was a sound of singing. We followed it and came to Nakamura's house, where a curious religious service was under way. Having no knowledge of churchly forms or ritual, the Shimabukans had developed their own. There was much Bible reading by Kina, repeated in singsong fashion by the worshipers.

Then came hymn singing. The tunes of the two hymns the missionary had taught—"Fairest Lord Jesus" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"—had naturally suffered some changes, but they were recognisable.

Swept up in the spirit of "All Hail the Power," we joined in. After many prayers, voiced spontaneously by people in the crowd, there was a discussion of community problems. With each question, Kina turned quickly to some Bible passage to find the answer. The book's imitation-leather cover was cracked and worn, its pages stained and dog-eared from 30 years' constant use. Kina held it with the reverent care one would use in handling the original Magna Carta.

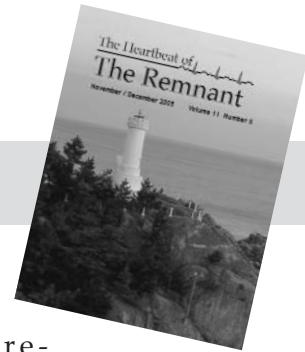
The service over, we waited as the crowd moved out, and my driver whispered hoarsely, "So this is what comes out of only a Bible and a couple of old guys who wanted to live like Jesus!", Then, with a glance at a shell-hole, he murmured, "Maybe we're using the wrong kind of weapons."

Time had dimmed the Shimabukans' memory of the missionary; neither Kina nor Nakamura could recall his name. They did remember his parting statement. As expressed by Nakamura, it was: "Study this Book well. It will give you strong faith. And when faith is strong, everything is strong." □



Charity Ministries
 www.charityministries.org
 A Ministry of Charity Christian Fellowship
 and Ephrata Christian Fellowship

The Heartbeat of
The Remnant



July-September 2005 Financial Report

Greetings in Jesus' Name! We would like to give a little update about the Tape Ministry.

As we continue from day to day here in the Tape Ministry we thank God for all who have supported us. Your cards and letters of appreciation have been a great blessing and encouragement to us.

We are continually busy taking orders, answering phone calls, replying to emails, writing letters, and the list goes on. Not to mention the necessary routine work of keeping the database updated, correcting addresses, keeping the web site current with new messages, uploading the Remnant and Missions newsletter, and keeping ahead of all the other requests that come our way. We are currently sending out approximately three thousand messages per week. Thank you for keeping us busy with your requests!

We currently have four to five workers here every day with

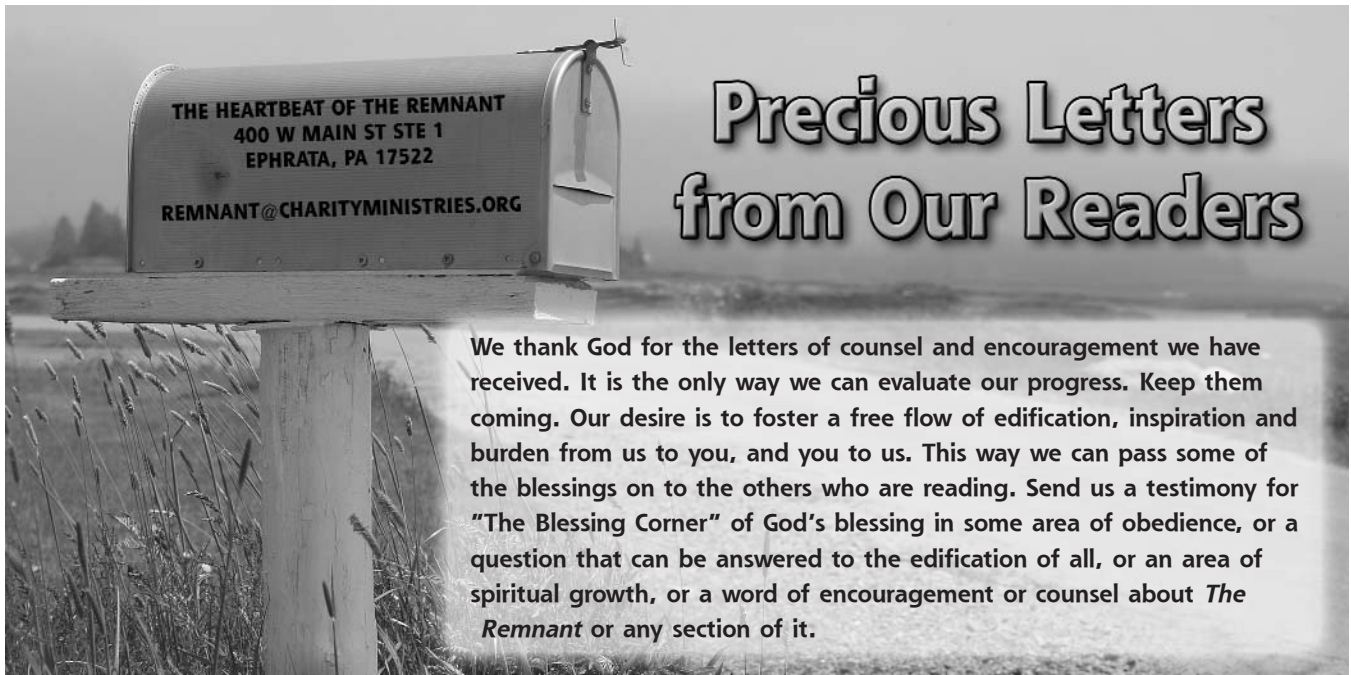
most of them volunteer. These are part-time and not coming in every day. However, we are looking for another fulltime volunteer. We are looking for a Christian young man who is responsible and willing to dedicate his time to this mission field. He needs to have an aptitude for computer work. If you are looking for a place to do some volunteer work and meet

these requirements please call us. We are actively pursuing someone to fill this position.

We would like to begin offering our messages on regular CD. An increasing number of people are requesting this, primarily because their vehicles do not have cassette tape

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07/01/05 Beginning Balance	\$10,213.74	<p>As you can see by this financial report, we are again struggling financially. Since we have made the decision to not borrow money for the support of this ministry, we are asking for your support both prayerfully and financially. All can pray, some can give.</p> <p>Again, thank you to all that have supported us in the past and we pray for your support in the future.</p>
Receipts		
Tape Ministry Donations	\$41,983.33	
Remnant Subscription Donations	\$6,544.25	
Total Receipts	\$48,527.58	
Disbursements		
UPS & Postage	\$5,260.38	
Tapes, Albums, CD's & Labels	\$15,990.01	
Equipment & Software Purchases	\$215.89	
Equipment Maint & Repairs	\$4,261.75	
Mailing & Office Supplies	\$1,847.28	
Rent	\$2,250.00	
Telephone	\$1,061.76	
Website Development & Maintenance	\$513.07	
Building Improvements	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous	\$6,033.28	
Payroll Expense	\$14,200.01	
Books & Catalogs	\$1,967.20	
Remnant Publishing & Mailing	\$11,069.30	
Total Disbursements	\$64,669.93	
09/30/05 Ending Balance	-\$5,928.61	
Difference	-\$16,142.35	



We thank God for the letters of counsel and encouragement we have received. It is the only way we can evaluate our progress. Keep them coming. Our desire is to foster a free flow of edification, inspiration and burden from us to you, and you to us. This way we can pass some of the blessings on to the others who are reading. Send us a testimony for "The Blessing Corner" of God's blessing in some area of obedience, or a question that can be answered to the edification of all, or an area of spiritual growth, or a word of encouragement or counsel about *The Remnant* or any section of it.

Editors note: In the last issue A few from the local congregation raised a concern concerning the article "But Ye Are A Chosen Generation" by A. B. Simpson. In this article Simpson said "The word 'ecclesia,' or 'church,' means 'called out,' but God is calling out a still more select body from the church to be His bride". The objection was that they felt that this teaching diminishing the doctrine of the Church. They said that they felt that if a person was saved than he was a part of the bride. They did not see room in the Scriptures for two levels of Christianity.

Editor's Response: I'm not sure that this is completely what Simpson believed but I still feel they have a good point. It is difficult for Christendom today to reconcile the "easy believeism" offered in the average churches with the very dichotomous, black-and-white statements about salvation from the scriptures. As Jesus said "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many

there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt 7:13-14) Making up a pretended "higher" or "deeper" life to explain away nominal Christianity is a dangerous teaching. His salvation is free but His grace is real and it is guaranteed to change your life. At the end of the Bible we read these beautiful words "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever

will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev 22:12-17)

The article in the most recent Remnant concerning the sacredness and permanence of marriage was a blessing to me. The fresh material was encouraging to see. There are so many out there who sense God drawing them to a deeper walk of obedience to His Word in practical life. They start having more children, they home school, they dress modestly, and some of them even cover their heads. Finally they come across this teaching and they have to deal with it. Some skirt around it and don't get anywhere spiritually; they are just conservative nominal Christians or they get caught up by the spirit of home-steading or something similar. Others run up against it and completely reject it and in time turn around heading back to what they came from. Many of them have large families before they get this far. There are a few others, though, who see it and it pricks their heart. They see the

sin and cannot go on living in it.

I began to see the truth but my emotions/feelings were strong. No one understood because they had no idea what it was like to walk away from someone I loved and who wanted me. It did seem to be quite a paradox. However, when I saw it more from God's view it changed things. Obviously, I didn't do it knowingly. Nonetheless, looking back, I see where there were some warnings that I did not perceive. I was guilty.

I remember the turmoil well. I remember the pain and the grieving. I remember when it began to dawn on me that it wasn't only wrong but that he was actually another woman's husband- whether she wanted him or not. I wouldn't want to take a husband from any sister at church or from a neighbor or friend. What was the difference if it was the husband of someone I didn't know? At that point I began to view it all differently. He was no longer the one I loved that I couldn't be with. He was another woman's husband. I began to repent of the gross immorality that I had lived in and had harbored in my heart. God, in His great mercy to me, has set me free. I have no regrets. The grace of God is sufficient even if I don't get a hold of

it. However, I am learning to do that more proficiently.

As time has passed and I look back I see more clearly the situation and how my Savior sees it. How brazen of me! What a shameless posture of heart! What defiance to God's beautiful plan! What audacity to live with another woman's husband and love him! How I thank God for his great mercy toward me.

Ephrata, PA

Dear Sir or Madam,

Hello, I am very encouraged by your website and your lovely Magazine which you send out to us thank you so much for doing so. May God bless you all greatly and bless the works of your hands I wondered if your ladies wear the head covering always or only just in worship, as in your magazines I saw that the ladies in the "My journey to non resistance" article were not wearing a head covering. I think its a wonderful thing to wear the head covering always as I think it separates believer women from non believing women and is a sign of holiness and a kind of protection as non believing men find it difficult to harass a woman with head cov-

ering and generally leave such women alone plus its a great witness to the faith. I believe the head covering is a real witness and encouragement to believers in the lord and you will never know how much I was encouraged to find out that you believed in the head covering when I first found out about your website, as I was actually beginning to believe that I was amongst one of the only people in the world who wore a head covering as none of the churches in my area in London believe in it. Please keep up the head covering , its a great thing to do and I believe its of God. Many blessings to you all and your ministry. God bless you

London, England

Editor's reply: Yes, our ladies do wear the head covering all the time. I have heard countless testimonies of ladies like you who give glory to God for revealing this lost practice to them. The testimonies I have heard have usually spoken of a sense of relief and freedom from the world's fashions and pomp. In saying this we also strive not to take it out of balance, our salvation is in Christ alone. We rejoice as He grafts His Word and teachings into our life.

continued from page 33, July-September 2005 Financial Report

players in them. This will mean an upgrade of our equipment to be able to produce any significant amount. We feel this will only increase the availability of the Word of God to more people. We will continue offering our messages on tape and in the MP3 format.

Also, we have recently produced and edited the Godly Home Series on DVD.

This is an excellent way to hear the series with the advantage of having visual stimulation as well. We are requiring it be used in a group setting. We will be advertising this on our web site and in "The Remnant" later. If you are interested please call or write to us for more information. We hope to have it available by the end of the year.

Our web site visitors are gradually increasing in number. We have many of our messages there as well as "The Heartbeat of the Remnant" and the Missions Newsletter.

You can visit us at www.charityministries.org or call us at 1-800-227-7902.

Thank you for your support and especially your prayers. --*The Tape Ministry*

Encompassed

*Encompassed with clouds of distress,
And tempted all hope to resign,
I pant for the light of thy face,
That I in thy beauty may shine.
Disheartened with waiting so long,
I sink at thy feet with my load;
All plaintive I pour out my song,
And stretch forth my hands unto God.*

*Shine, Lord, and my terror shall cease;
The blood of atonement apply;
And lead me to Jesus for peace,
The Rock that is higher than I.
Speak, Savior, for sweet is thy voice;
Thy presence is fair to behold;
I thirst for thy Spirit, with cries
And groanings that cannot be told.*

~Augustus M. Toplady

The Heartbeat of

The Remnant

Charity Christian Fellowship

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